

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SAVANNAH DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	CR: 422-027
)	
CARLOS MIDDLETON)	

PLEA AGREEMENT

Defendant Carlos Middleton, represented by Defendant's counsel Matthew Duncan, and the United States of America, represented by Assistant United States Attorney Chris Howard, have reached a plea agreement in this case. The terms and conditions of that agreement are as follows.

1. Guilty Plea

Defendant agrees to enter a plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment, which charges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951 (Interference with Commerce by Robbery).

2. Elements and Factual Basis

The elements necessary to prove the offense charged in Count One are (1) that Defendant knowingly acquired someone else's personal property; (2) Defendant took the property against the victim's will, by using actual or threatened force, or violence, or causing the victim to fear harm, either immediately or in the future; and (3) the Defendant's actions obstructed, delayed, or affected interstate commerce.

Defendant agrees that the Defendant is, in fact, guilty of this offense. The Defendant agrees to the accuracy of the following facts, which satisfy each of the

offense's required elements: on or about January 20, 2022, in Chatham County, within the Southern District of Georgia, Defendant did unlawfully obstruct, delay, and affect commerce as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery as that term is defined in said statute, in that Defendant did unlawfully take and attempt to take property from GameStop employees with the initials D.N. and J.M., against their will by means of actual and threatened force, violence and fear of injury, immediate and future, to the employee, and to property in the employee's custody and possession, that is, he did enter the business, brandish and use a firearm, threaten at least one employee, and take and attempt to take property belonging to the employees and the business. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.

3. Possible Sentence

Defendant's guilty plea will subject the Defendant to the following maximum possible sentence: 20 years' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, such restitution as may be ordered by the Court, and forfeiture of all forfeitable assets. The Court additionally must impose a \$100 special assessment per count of conviction.

4. No Promised Sentence

No one has promised Defendant that the Court will impose any particular sentence or a sentence within any particular range. The Court is not bound by any estimate of sentence given or recommendations made by Defendant's counsel, the

government, the U.S. Probation Office, or anyone else. The Court may impose a sentence up to the statutory maximum. Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw Defendant's plea of guilty if the Defendant receives a more severe sentence than the Defendant expects.

5. Court's Use of Sentencing Guidelines

The Court is obligated to use the United States Sentencing Guidelines to calculate the applicable guideline range for Defendant's offense. The Sentencing Guidelines are advisory; the Court is not required to impose a sentence within the range those Guidelines suggest. The Court will consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), in determining the Defendant's sentence. The Sentencing Guidelines are based on all of Defendant's relevant conduct, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, not just the conduct underlying the particular Count or Counts to which Defendant is pleading guilty.

6. Agreements Regarding Sentencing Guidelines

a. Use of Information

Nothing in this agreement precludes the government from providing full and accurate information to the Court and U.S. Probation Office for use in calculating the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range.

b. Acceptance of Responsibility

If the Court determines that Defendant qualifies for an adjustment under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), and the offense level prior to operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or

greater, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in offense level pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) based on Defendant's timely notification of the Defendant's intention to enter a guilty plea.

7. Recommendation of Concurrent Sentence

The government agrees not to oppose Defendant's request that his sentence in this case be served concurrently with any sentence imposed in his related state case proceeding in Chatham County Superior Court case number SPCR22-00194-J1.

8. Dismissal of Other Counts

At sentencing, the government will move to dismiss any other Counts of the Indictment that remain pending against Defendant.

9. Abandonment of Property

Defendant waives and abandons Defendant's interest in any property that may have been seized in connection with this case, including but not limited to the firearm recovered in this case.

10. Financial Obligations and Agreements

a. Restitution

The amount of restitution ordered by the Court shall include restitution for the full loss caused by Defendant's total criminal conduct. Restitution is not limited to the specific counts to which Defendant is pleading guilty. Any restitution judgment is intended to and will survive Defendant, notwithstanding the abatement of any underlying criminal conviction.

b. Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100, payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court, which shall be due immediately at the time of sentencing.

11. Waivers

a. Waiver of Appeal

Defendant entirely waives Defendant's right to a direct appeal of Defendant's conviction and sentence on any ground (including any argument that the statute to which the Defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional or that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute). The only exceptions are that the Defendant may file a direct appeal of Defendant's sentence if (1) the court enters a sentence above the statutory maximum, (2) the court enters a sentence above the advisory Sentencing Guidelines range found to apply by the court at sentencing; or (3) the Government appeals the sentence. Absent those exceptions, Defendant explicitly and irrevocably instructs Defendant's attorney not to file an appeal.

b. Waiver of Collateral Attack

Defendant entirely waives Defendant's right to collaterally attack Defendant's conviction and sentence on any ground and by any method, including but not limited to a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. The only exception is that Defendant may collaterally attack Defendant's conviction and sentence based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

c. FOIA and Privacy Act Waiver

Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any record pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and all subsequent amendments thereto.

d. Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 Waiver

Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a Defendant during the course of plea discussions or plea proceedings. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the protections of these rules. If Defendant fails to plead guilty, or Defendant's plea of guilty is later withdrawn, all of Defendant's statements in connection with this plea, and any leads derived therefrom, shall be admissible for any and all purposes.

12. Defendant's Rights

Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary have the court appoint counsel, at trial and at every other critical stage of the proceeding. Defendant possesses a number of rights which Defendant will waive by pleading guilty, including: the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea; the right to a jury trial; and the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from compelled self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses.

13. Satisfaction with Counsel

Defendant has had the benefit of legal counsel in negotiating this agreement. Defendant believes that Defendant's attorney has represented Defendant faithfully, skillfully, and diligently, and Defendant is completely satisfied with the legal advice given and the work performed by Defendant's attorney.

14. Breach of Plea Agreement

If Defendant fails to plead guilty, withdraws or attempts to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea, commits any new criminal conduct following the execution of this agreement, or otherwise breaches this agreement, the government is released from all of its agreements regarding Defendant's sentence, including any agreements regarding the calculation of Defendant's advisory Sentencing Guidelines. In addition, the government may declare the plea agreement null and void, reinstate any counts that may have been dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement, and/or file new charges against Defendant that might otherwise be barred by this plea agreement. Defendant waives any statute-of-limitations or speedy trial defense to prosecutions reinstated or commenced under this paragraph.

15. Entire Agreement

This agreement contains the entire agreement between the government and Defendant.

DAVID H. ESTES
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date

6.10.2022

Date

Patricia G. Rhodes
Chief, Criminal Division



Chris Howard
Assistant United States Attorney

I have read and carefully reviewed this agreement with my attorney. I understand each provision of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to it. I hereby stipulate that the factual basis set out therein is true and accurate in every respect.

6/10/22
Date

C. Middleton
Defendant Carlos Middleton

I have fully explained to Defendant all of Defendant's rights, and I have carefully reviewed each and every part of this agreement with Defendant. I believe that Defendant fully and completely understands it, and that Defendant's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed, intelligent, and voluntary one.

6/10/22
Date

[Signature]
Defendant's Attorney, Matthew Duncan